

To: Senator Donald DeFronzo, Transportation Committee Chair

Representative Tony Guerrero, Transportation Committee Chair

Members of the Transportation Committee

FROM: Peter Sielman, Chairman of the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission

DATE: February 24, 2009 Transportation Committee Public Hearing

RE: ***Testimony in Support of HB 6084*** AN ACT PROVIDING FUNDS TO THE
ROUTE 11 GREENWAY AUTHORITY COMMISSION.

Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrero, Members of the Transportation Committee, for the record my name is Peter Sielman and I am submitting testimony in support of proposed bill No. 6084 which would provide bond funding for the Route 11 Greenway.

The Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission was created by the Legislature to acquire and manage land for the Route 11 Greenway. The Route 11 Greenway, when coupled with the completion of Route 11, will provide the solution for a major transportation problem in Connecticut while simultaneously protecting the environment.

Most of the \$1 Million of unrestricted federal funds previously obtained by the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission to acquire land have been spent or are committed for pending purchases. An additional \$10 Million of 80/20 federal funds are currently available for the Greenway. In 2008 the Bond Commission approved \$1 Million to match the first \$4 Million of the \$10 Million in federal funds. The purpose of the proposed legislation's \$1.5 Million is to match the remaining federal funds. This addresses the remaining 20% share of funds that must be provided by the State, local communities, private sources or in-kind services. Without the proposed State support the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission has little chance of being able to purchase significant additional properties.

I ask for your support of proposed bill No. 6084 and for support of the companion legislation (proposed bill No. 6076) which would permit the Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission to immediately use its remaining funds to purchase options on potential Greenway lands in this favorable real estate market.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter F. Sielman: Chairman, Route 11 Greenway Authority Commission